

English at Pitt

2002-2003 Academic Year



<http://www.english.pitt.edu>

Greetings to the Friends of the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh. This newsletter is intended to bring you up to date on the department, its activities, and its graduates.

In addition, however, the newsletter is an invitation for you to renew your involvement with us and to think of the department as an exciting and available resource. We sponsor a variety of events on campus, several a month,



including lectures, readings, films, and colloquia. The Contemporary Writers Series has become a major event on the city's cultural calendar. The Film Studies Program sponsors regular screenings. Through the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project, we sponsor activities and meetings for teachers and a summer institute for

young writers. Most of these activities are open to the public. You can find a schedule of events on our homepage. (The Young Writers Institute serves children from city neighborhoods each summer; it is in constant need of scholarship money for deserving students.)

Milestones: I note with sadness that Edwin W. Marris passed away on Tuesday, October 15th, 2002. Ed Marris' major work was the three volume edition of "The Letters of Charles and Mary Lamb," published by Cornell University Press. He joined our faculty in 1967 and taught for 23 years, retiring in 1990.

Catherine Gammon, Patsy Sims, and Harry Mooney have retired. We wish all of them the very best. Ronald Judy was promoted to Full Professor, while Valerie Krips and Fiona Cheong were promoted to Associate Professor.

Jennifer Trainor has taken over from Nick Coles as the Site Director for the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. Lynn Emanuel will complete her term as Director of the Writing Program at the end of this Fall term; I am very

pleased to announce that Chuck Kinder has agreed to take her place.

We have hired several new Assistant Professors: Faith Adiele (MFA, University of Iowa) writes creative non-fiction; Marah Gubar (PhD, Princeton) works on 19th Century British and children's literature; Jeanne Marie Laskas (MFA, Pittsburgh) is also a writer of creative non-fiction; Neepa Majumdar (PhD, Indiana) works on Indian and ethnographic cinema. Don Bialostosky (PhD, Chicago) will join us as a Full Professor during the next academic year. He was previously the Head of the English Department at Penn State. Don writes on Wordsworth, Bakhtin, and histories and theories of rhetoric. Jaime Harker (PhD, Temple) and Lois Williams (MFA, Pittsburgh) join us as Lecturers. Jaime will teach literature and composition while acting as Managing Director of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project; Lois will teach composition and creative writing. We are continuing our search for a new Mellon Chair. We hope to complete our search this Winter. Keep your fingers crossed!

Honors and Awards: We had a record number of distinguished awards coming to our faculty last year.

Toi Derricotte: The 1st Dudley Randall Award for National Contributions to Literature, Detroit Writers Guild; she was also appointed 2001 National Books Awards Judge.



From left to right: Jim Knapp, Dave Bartholomae, Mary Briscoe, Robert Hinman, Fiore Pugliano, Phil Smith, Lynn Emanuel, John Twynning, and Jim Seitz

Lucy Fischer: President, Society for Cinema Studies. Lucy also won an NEH Fellowship to support work on her latest book, *Designing Women: Art Deco, Cinema, and the Female Form*, to be published in 2002 by Columbia University Press. The book looks at the art deco design movement of the 1920s and '30s, and at film history as it relates to that movement.

Tony Hoagland: 2002 Academy Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2002, the Academy gave 8 awards of \$7500 each to honor writers of "exceptional accomplishment in any genre." These awards are among the most prestigious national awards available to writers. The other recipients were Benson Bobrick, Christopher Durang, Linda Gregerson, Charles Johnson, Stanlely Plumley, James Richardson, and Alan Shapiro. The awards were presented in New York on May 15th at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The Academy's 250 members nominate candidates and a rotating committee of writers selects winners. The members of the 2002 committee were Russell Banks, Ann Beattie, Hortense Calisher, Horton Foote, Galway Kinnell, and Robert Pinsky.

Ronald Judy and Paul Bové: In the awards for Special Issues, the Council of Editors of Learned Journals awarded second place to boundary2 for the special issue on W.E.B. Dubois, edited by Ronald Judy.

Paul Kameen: His book, *Writing/Teaching: Essays toward a Rhetoric of Pedagogy* (University of Pittsburgh Press), received the CCCC Outstanding Book Award for 2002. Joyce Harte, Chair of the Award Selection Committee, noted in the citation: "Kameen's work was a wonderful piece of scholarship, as well as one of the most intelligent and nuanced reflections on teaching I've seen."

Chuck Kinder: His book, *Honeymooners: A Cautionary Tale*, was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. It was also listed as one of the best novels of 2001 by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, San Francisco Chronicle, the Denver Post, and The Common Review. It is currently being translated into Italian.

Valerie Krips: Valerie's book, *The Presence of the Past: Memory, Heritage and Childhood in Postwar Britain* (Garland), was designated an Honor Book by the Children's Literature Association. The awards are given annually "to promote, recognize and publicize outstanding contributions to scholarship in the field of children's literature." The ChLA Award Committee noted that Krips' book demonstrated the importance to Children's Literature of a "thorough understanding of the methodology of cultural studies. . .the author works not only with other written texts in situating the postwar British literature but

also with such cultural texts as museums, tourism, advertising, and theme parks."

Buddy Nordan: 2002 Richard Wright Award for Literacy Excellence by the Richard Wright Society. This is an annual award, given to writers connected to the state of Mississippi. Past recipients include Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, and Beth Henley.

**The Pittsburgh Contemporary
Writers Series**

2002-2003 Season

Campbell McGrath-Poet

**8:30 P.M., Thursday, September 19, 2002
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

Debra Magpie Earling-Novelist

**8:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 9, 2002
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

JoAnn Beard-Essayist

**8:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 23, 2002
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

**Editors to Writers: A Dialogue
About Creative Nonfiction**

**3:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 6, 2002
Cathedral of Learning, Room 501**

Terry Tempest Williams-Essayist

**8:30 P.M., Monday, February 3, 2003
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

**Remaking Contemporary
American Poetry: A Dialogue
with Poets**

**D.A. Powell, Larissa Szporluk,
Kevin Young**

**Thursday, March 13, 2003
Panel Discussion ~ 3:00 P.M.
Cathedral of Learning, Room 501
Reading ~ 8:30 P.M.
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

Chang-Rae Lee-Novelist

**8:30 P.M., Thursday, April 3, 2003
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Room 125**

**All events are free and
open to the public.**

**Cosponsors: Wyndham Garden
University Place, The Book Center,
Asian Studies, Women's Studies**

Susan Harris Smith: 2002 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. The award not only recognizes Susan's dedication to students and her effectiveness as a teacher, but also the importance of her arguments on the role drama plays in a literature curriculum.

Michael West: 2001 Christian Gauss Award from Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, for his book, *Transcendental Wordplay: America's Romantic Pundsters and the Search for the Language of Nature*, (Ohio University Press). Previous winners include some of the most distinguished members of our profession. The honor carries a \$2,500 prize. In its announcement, Phi Beta Kappa stated that West's book "examines 19th century American attitudes toward language -- the making of a new language inherited from English. The judges noted that West regards the 'revolution' of transcendentalism as essentially philological, and tries to determine where and how Thoreau, Emerson, Whitman, Dickinson, Melville and others got their proclivity for extravagant puns, riddles, acrostics, anagrams and other forms of wordplay. West's early essays on Thoreau have been important to scholars of mid 19th century American literature, and the judges considered *Transcendental Wordplay* -- which revises and amplifies those and other essays -- a classic." Michael also won First Prize in the Frank O'Connor Essay Contest, and two of his students split the first prize for the student entries.

New Journals: This year the Writing Program established a new on-line literary journal: *nidus: a journal of contemporary art and literature*. You can access it through our web-site. The year before, with the help of the Honors College, our undergraduate writing majors established *Collision*, a new nonfiction magazine. It was given broad coverage in the *University Times*. The English department is also the home of *boundary2* (Paul Bové, ed.) and *Reader* (Paul Kameen and Mariolina Salvatori, eds.).

New Initiatives: Improving the MA/Ph.D. Program: The Graduate Procedures Committee proposed and the Department approved a number of changes, all designed to make us more competitive and to improve students' time to degree. We will begin to admit students directly to the PhD program; there is a new structure of advising and evaluation and a more streamlined PhD Project structure; we have reduced the number of required seminars and defined a year to year time-line for satisfactory progress. Much credit goes to Eric Clarke for his efforts at every stage of the process.

Writing Center: The Writing Center has moved to a wonderful new, bright and airy space in Thaw Hall. With the support of the Dean's office, the Writing Center will also increase its use of peer tutors.

Jim Seitz has developed several new initiatives in support of Writing Across the Curriculum, including faculty development meetings, a speaker series, and a soon-to-be-posted website.

Pitt in Hollywood: Last fall, we welcomed Carl Kurlander to our faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Carl grew up in Pittsburgh. He went to Duke as a Writing Major and his story, "St. Elmo's Fire," won him a scholarship to Hollywood where he wrote the screenplay for the very successful movie of the same name. His screen writing credits include *St. Elmo's Fire* (Columbia Pictures), *Runaway Mom* (Universal), *Making the Rounds* (Disney) and a variety of TV shows, including *Saved by the Bell*, *I Remember the Seventies*, and *Malibu, CA*. He is with us again this year teaching courses in fiction and screen writing. He has done much to promote interest in the business side of the film industry, including bringing established producers to campus to meet with our students. The considerable force field around Carl is now focused on a new student organization, *Pitt in Hollywood*, whose goal is to provide a network of connections between the film industry and Pitt. This past summer, three students had internships in Hollywood.

Scholarships and Prize Funds: We were very pleased to receive endowments to sponsor two new prizes in English: The **Fred Koloc Award** for a special admit freshman who shows the greatest advancement and spirit of achievement and the **Marlee and James Myers Award** for outstanding students. The departmental Awards Committee met this Fall to determine a focus for this Award.

The department's Planning and Budget Committee has targeted the **Nancy Anderson Fellowship in English Literature** as the focus for development efforts. The income from this fund provides a fellowship in English literature to a deserving graduate student. We continue to work to build endowments for the **Barbara N. Tobias Fellowship** (a dissertation fellowship) and the **Taube Scholarship**, an annual scholarship for third and fourth years undergraduates in the Writing Program.

Finally: Please keep in touch. We'd like to know where you are and what you are doing. If you have questions for me (or thoughts or concerns), please call or write. My e-mail address is barth@pitt.edu. If you are on the internet, be sure to check our Homepage: www.english.pitt.edu

I'll look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dave Bartholomae,
English Department Chair

~New Faculty~



Faith Adiele, Assistant Professor in Creative Nonfiction, received her BA from Harvard & Radcliffe Colleges in 1987, her MA from Lesley College in 1996, and MFAs from the University of Iowa in both Fiction (2001) and Nonfiction (2002). She has been the recipient of many honors, which include nomination for Best American Essays in 2002, the John Guyon Literary Nonfiction Prize from Crab Orchard Review in 2001, the Millennium Award for Creative Nonfiction in 2000, the Willard R. Espy Literary Foundation Award in 1999, and Pen New England Emerging Writer of 1994. She previously taught courses in literature, creative writing, and composition at Framingham State College, where she held the Christa McAuliffe Chair as a visitor, and nonfiction writing at the University of Iowa.

Don Bialostosky is a Professor of English from Pennsylvania State University. He is currently visiting Pitt and will join the Composition, Literacy, and Pedagogy group here in 2003-2004. He has also taught at the University of Utah, the University of Washington, at SUNY Stony Brook, and at the University of Toledo, where he was a Distinguished University Professor of English. He is the author of two books and a long list of chapters and articles on the Romantics, with particular attention to Wordsworth and Coleridge, and on Pedagogy, Rhetoric, and Dialogics. He has been a leading figure in thinking through the uses and the consequences of the work of Mikhail Bakhtin. He has served on such committees as the MLA Delegate Assembly and the Board of Directors of the Society for Critical Exchange. He also served as head of Penn State's English department from 1996 until 2001. He has taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses, and he won the GSO "Outstanding Graduate Teacher" award at Penn State in 1994.



Marah Gubar earned her PhD in English from Princeton University. She holds a BA and BFA (in Musical Theatre) from the University of Michigan. She has spoken at conferences for children's literature, the British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. At Pitt, Marah teaches



children's literature and Victorian literature. She has published articles on children's literature in *Style*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, and *Children's Literature*. While teaching at Princeton, she received the Cotsen Junior Teaching Fellowship to work with Elaine Showalter to develop an English Department program in pedagogy and, as a result of that work, she was chosen to design and lead teaching workshops for incoming Humanities graduate students at the newly formed McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. At Princeton she won the most prestigious award available to graduate students: The Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Teaching Award for 2000-2001.

Jeanne Marie Laskas, Assistant Professor in Creative Nonfiction, received her MFA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1985. Since 1994, she has been a regular, syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post Magazine* ("Significant Others"). She is a regular feature writer for major magazines like *GQ*, *Mirabella*, *Travel and Leisure*, *Glamour*, *Redbook*, *Health*, as well as the magazine sections of *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and the *Philadelphia Enquirer*; from 1989 until 1992 she was a contributing editor for *Life*; she is currently a contributing editor for *Esquire*. She is the author of three books and her work has been selected for several anthologies. She has won over a dozen Gold Quill Awards for Excellence in Journalism and an "Excellence" award from the Sunday Magazine Editors Association. She has taught as a member of the conference faculty and the core faculty in the Goucher College MFA Program in Creative Nonfiction.



Kimberly Latta researches and writes about topics in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century literature from the perspectives of feminist, materialist, and cultural theory. She has published on Anne Bradstreet and has an article on Daniel Defoe forthcoming in *ELH*. Her book-in-progress concerns economics, gender, and spirit in early modern England and America. She holds an MA in Comparative Literature (English, German and French) from UC Berkeley and a PhD in English from Rutgers University.

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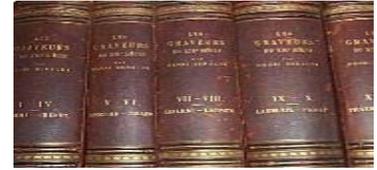
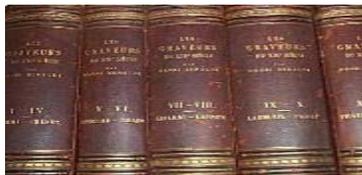
Neepa Majumdar is an Assistant Professor in Film Studies. She earned her PhD in Comparative Literature, also specializing in Film Studies, at Indiana University in June 2001. She has taught courses in Indian Cinema, Contemporary Black Film, Introduction to Film, and Cinema and Ethnography. She has volunteered

as an elementary school teacher on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. She studied in Berlin, received a research grant for work in the Library of Congress, and was a Junior Research Fellow in the American Institute of Indian Studies, at the National Film Archive of India. She has published one essay with another forthcoming. Her dissertation, *Female Stardom and Cinema in India, 1930s to 1950s*, won the SCS Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2002. It analyzes the cultural prohibitions and desires surrounding the construction of female stardom in India. The project provides a different vantage point for examining the concept and phenomenon of film “stars” by considering their translocation from Hollywood to a colonial setting.



Stefan Wheelock received his PhD from Brown University, where his work concentrated on the relationship between the emergence of discourse of civil liberty, reason, and freedom as represented in eighteenth-century writing and ideology and the emergence of black writing on slavery during the era. His

area of specialization is Anglophone long eighteenth-century literature and culture, and his research interests are interdisciplinary in scope, emphasizing the political and philosophical implications of black writing within the political-critical tradition of Locke, Addison, Steele, and Hume. Stefan also has interests in Marxist critical theory, hermeneutics, existential phenomenology, and African philosophy. His first publication, “The Slave Narrative and the State: The Question of Political Criticism and Autobiography in the Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano” appears in the forthcoming anthology *The Silent Language of Their Pens: Slave Narratives as Readerly/Writerly Texts*.



BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY FACULTY MEMBERS

Susan Andrade (ed.), *Atlantic Cross-Currents/Transatlantiques*. Lawrenceville: Africa World Press.

David Bartholomae and Anthony Petrosky, *Ways of Reading* (6th ed.). Boston: Bedford Books.

Paul Bové (ed.), *Edward W. Said and the Work of the Critic*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Fiona Cheong, *Shadow Theatre*. New York: Soho Press.

Eric Clarke, *Virtuous Vice: Homoeroticism and the Public Sphere*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Toi Derricotte, *Natural Birth*. Republished by Firebrand Press.

Lynn Emanuel, *Then, Suddenly*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Lee Gutkind (ed.), *Healing: 20 Prominent Authors Write about Inspirational Moments of Achieving Health and Gaining Insight*. New York: Putnam Publishing Group.

Lorraine Higgins (coauthor), *Learning to Rival: A Literate Practice for Intercultural Inquiry*. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Ronald Judy (ed.), *Sociology Hesitant: W.E.B. DuBois's Dynamic Thinking*, special Issue of *boundary2*.

Paul Kameen, *Writing/Teaching: Essays Toward a Rhetoric of Pedagogy*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Chuck Kinder, *Honeymooners: A Cautionary Tale*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Valerie Krips, *The Presence of the Past: Memory, Heritage and Childhood in Postwar Britain*. New York: Garland.

Marcia Landy, *Italian Film*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Colin MacCabe (ed.), *Performance*. London: Faber and Faber.

Buddy Nordan, *Boy with Loaded Gun*. New York: Algonquin Books.

Marianne Novy (ed.), *Imagining Adoption: Essays on Literature and Culture*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Jeff Oaks, *The Moon of Books*. Lincoln: Ultima Obscura Press.

Susan Smith (ed. with M. Dawson), *The American 1890's: A Cultural Reader*. Durham: Duke University Press.

David Walton, *Ride*. Pittsburgh: Carnegie Mellon University Press.

Michael West, *Transcendental Wordplay: America's Romantic Punsters and the Search for the Language of Nature*. Athens: Ohio University Press.



Charles Crow



Carol Kay



Dr. Tobias & Barbara
Nietzsche Tobias



Al McDowell



Myron Taube

~ The English Department Endowments ~

The *Nancy C. Anderson Memorial Fund* was established in 1990 by her parents. It honors Nancy Anderson who worked in the department as an advisor and an Assistant to the Dean of FAS. The fund supports a graduate Teaching Assistant or Fellow for tuition, transportation, and health fees over two terms.

The *Block Endowment* financially supports a distinguished visiting writer in the Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series.

Dorothy D. Burkhart and Alumni Scholarship Fund: An award given to a junior English major for use in their senior year from Dorothy Burkhart's estate which was established in 1976.

The *Charles Crow Memorial Fund* was initiated to support a small reading room in the department. It is in honor of Charles Crow, a Shakespeare specialist who taught from 1931 until his retirement in 1973. The fund reached endowment status in 1997 and is maintained by Ann Ronchetti, the department bibliographer. This funds books, equipment, and audio-visual materials for the Crow Room.

Carol Kay Memorial Fund: This fund honors Carol Kay, an eighteenth century specialist who taught in the department from 1989 until her death in 1998. Jonathan Arac, her husband and fellow faculty member, established the fund to support a prize for the best essay written on English Literature from 1500-1900.

The *Fred Koloc Fund* was established in 2000 and provides money for a student achievement award in the form of a gift certificate at the University of Pittsburgh Book Center. The student is chosen based on exceptional progress shown in the Basic Reading and Writing Course.

Allison McDowell Memorial Fund: "Al" McDowell's colleagues in TV, radio and print journalism in Pittsburgh set up this fund in 1995 in honor of their co-worker, an English and Journalism major (BA 1952). It supports a partial annual scholarship for an outstanding junior in the nonfiction writing program.

The *J.K. & Gertrude Miller* is an annual prize that funds the TA/TF Distinguished Teaching Award.

James Snead Memorial Fund: This fund, established by his family in 1991, honors James Snead, who taught from 1987 until his death in 1989. A \$500 prize is given for the best undergraduate essay in African-American Literature, American Literature, German Literature, or African-American Film. These four areas were of particular interest to James Snead.

Myron Taube Scholarship in Fiction Writing: Mrs. Marion Taube organized this fund in honor of her husband's retirement in 1995. The fund honors Myron "Mike" Taube who taught creative writing for 30 years. A \$500 prize is awarded to an undergraduate junior or senior for excellence in creative writing.

The *Barbara Nietzsche Tobias Memorial Fund* honors the spouse of English department professor, Richard Tobias. Barbara Nietzsche (MLIS, 1967) worked in the University Archives. The fund supports a dissertation fellowship.

If you have not contributed this year and would like to make a gift to the English Department, please designate your choice and mail it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions about giving, please call the Office of Development, Arts and Sciences at (412) 624-3202.

- 1.) Departmental scholarship: \$_____ (circle either graduate or undergraduate)
- 2.) Lecture funds: \$_____
- 3.) Prize Money: \$_____ graduate teaching money or other _____
- 4.) Specific Endowments: \$_____ Name of Endowment: _____
- 5.) English Department General Fund: \$_____

Thank you very much!



University of Pittsburgh
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